

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KINGST 00517 241647Z

ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-02 ARA-14 ISO-00 EB-08 /023 W

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R 241503Z JAN 78

FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9376

UNCLAS KINGSTON 0517

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, JM

SUBJECT: J\$1 MILLION FIRE DAMAGE TO PAPER PROCESSING COMPANY

REF: KINGSTON 467

1. ANOTHER FIRE IN THE KINGSTON INDUSTRIAL ESTATE HAS CAUSED SUBSTANTIAL DAMAGE TO WAREHOUSE AND STOCKS OF RAW MATERIALS. ACCORDING TO LOCAL PRESS REPORTS, FIRE ON JANUARY 22 DESTROYED THE WAREHOUSE AND STOCKS OF PAPER PROCESSORS LIMITED, A LEADING MANUFACTURER OF TOILET TISSUE, PAPER BAGS, SHOPPING BAGS, PAPER PLATES AND SANITARY NAPKINS. THE ESTIMATED DAMAGE HAS BEEN VALUED AT BETWEEN J\$600,000 AND J\$1 MILLION.

2. AS A RESULT, OPERATIONS AT THE COMPANY WILL CEASE TEMPORARILY TO ALLOW THE STOCKS OF RAW MATERIALS TO BE REPLACED. ABOUT 165 PEOPLE ARE LIKELY TO BE AFFECTED - A FACT WHICH WILL ADD TO THE ALREADY HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IN JAMAICA. CAUSE OF THE FIRE IS UNKNOWN, BUT THE POLICE ARE INVESTIGATING.

3. THE COMPANY HAD JUST RECEIVED THESE RAW MATERIALS (OVER 90 PERCENT IMPORTED) FOLLOWING WEEKS OF DELAY. IT IS EXPECTED THAT IT WILL TAKE ANOTHER 6 WEEKS OR MORE TO REPLACE THE IMPORTED MATERIAL. PAPER PROCESSORS LIMITED IS OWNED BY A CONSORTIUM OF THREE MAJOR DISTRIBUTING
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FIRMS. THESE ARE GRACE KENNEDY & COMPANY LTD., FACEY COMMODITY LIMITED AND T. GEDDES GRANT (DISTRIBUTORS) LIMITED. ONLY SIX DAYS AGO FIRE AT THE WAREHOUSE OF T. GEDDES GRANT (DISTRIBUTORS) LIMITED DESTROYED STOCKS OF VEGETABLE SEEDS, FERTILIZERS, FUNGICIDES AND OTHER AGRICULTURAL RAW MATERIALS VALUED AT J\$500,000 TO J\$600,000. (SEE REFTEL).

IRVING

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Event:
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